

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### TRIBUTE HONORING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EDMUNDITE MISSIONS

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the Edmundite Missions at Our Lady of Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Selma, Alabama. For 80 years the Edmundite Missions has faithfully served poor and underprivileged communities throughout the Deep South.

The Edmundite Missions, whose legal name is "Fathers of St. Edmund Southern Mission", is rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and focuses on providing food, clothing and shelter to poor and marginalized children and families, young adults and seniors of all faith traditions. Their work aims to address issues of systemic poverty in the region while sharing the hope they believe only comes through faith. While the Edmundite Mission in Alabama is headquartered in Selma, their outreach area includes the Alabama counties of Butler, Dallas, Lowndes, Monroe, Perry and Wilcox, and New Orleans, Louisiana.

The inspiring story of Edmundite Missions began with a call to action when in 1936 Pope Pius XI appealed to the Society of St. Edmund to go minister to the African-Americans of the Deep South, whom the Pope felt had been neglected by both church and state. The Edmundites responded by selecting two young priests, Father Francis Casey, S.S.E. and Father John "Barney" Paro, S.S.E., to take on the assignment. They wrote to Bishop Thomas J. Toolen of Mobile, who invited them to set up a "colored mission" in Selma.

Fathers Casey and Paro arrived in Selma on July 6, 1937, and moved into a former saloon on Broad Street. They discovered thousands of people living in extreme poverty, similar to that of a third world country. In response, they began their outreach by conducting door-to-door evangelization of the black community and building a small chapel, St. Elizabeth's Mission. Initially, they were met with skepticism and resentment by both the black and white communities in Selma. But their services to the poor gradually won them respect from the community.

The work of the Edmundite Missions helped to transform the communities of Alabama's rural Black Belt during some of the most turbulent times of race relations in American history. In 1940, the Missions welcomed the Sisters of Saint Joseph (S.S.J.) from Rochester, New York, who came to Selma to provide education and social ministry. The Sisters of St. Joseph started St. Elizabeth's School in 1941 and Holy Infant Inn (a nursing home) in 1943. In 1944, the Edmundites purchased Selma Good Samaritan Hospital, a rundown infirmary for blacks, and the Sisters set about transforming it into a modern facility. They established the Good Samaritan School of Nurs-

ing, the first medical training program for African-American women in the area.

In 1947, Father Nelson Ziter launched the Don Bosco Boys' Club (1947–1966), named after the patron saint of youth work. For the next 19 years until 1966, the club helped hundreds of black youth prepare and win the financial assistance needed to attend college. Father Ziter devoted countless hours and days to ensuring the success of every youth who came into the club.

On a personal note, I can attest to the transformative power of the Don Bosco Boys' Club. My dad, Andrew A. Sewell and many of his close friends, credit the support, love and guidance of Father Ziter for changing the trajectory of their lives. My dad and many of his teammates received athletic scholarships to historically black colleges—becoming first generation college graduates. The Club and its ministry helped to break the cycle of poverty for these African American boys such that they became teachers, doctors, lawyers and even priests. The Sewell family is forever indebted to the generous support and assistance the Edmundite Missions has given to the communities of Selma and throughout the Black Belt for over 80 years.

The Mission has a long history of seeing beyond color, creed or financial status. Their philosophy was never more relevant than during the turbulent years of the civil rights and voting rights movements. The Edmundites found themselves the center of controversy during the 1960s, when they were the only whites in Selma who openly supported the voting rights movement. During the 1950s and 1960s, the Mission and its priest and sisters worked with Selma black and white leaders, its business community and its white ministers to open the lines of communication between the races. They believed that progress could be achieved in Selma without violence or confrontations.

During the March from Selma to Montgomery, the Edmundites led by Father Ouellet, played a critical role. On March 7, 1965, the brutal confrontation at the Edmund Pettus Bridge caught the attention of the nation. Scores of wounded marchers poured into the emergency room at Good Samaritan Hospital, where doctors, nurses and Sisters worked around the clock to address the crisis. Good Samaritan Hospital won national praise for its treatment of the victims of the infamous Bloody Sunday confrontation, including providing medical treatment to our colleague, Congressman JOHN LEWIS.

Father Ouellet left Selma in June of 1965, on orders from Archbishop Toolen of Mobile, who was angered by the Father's identification with the marchers and wanted a quieter response. When he said goodbye to his weeping parishioners, Father Ouellet urged them to remain loyal to the Church and to their dreams. "All that we do we must do with love," he told them. "Let there be no hatred, let there be no bitterness, and let there be no desire for any revenge."

Reconciliation was a long time in coming, but the Missions continued to work quietly for

reconciliation and racial progress. The "Selma Accords of 1972," which brought about significant progress in the city, was negotiated in part by Assistant Missions Director Father James Robinson.

The incredible work done by the Edmundite Missions over the last 80 years has had life-changing impacts that reach far beyond the immediate communities they support. Today the Edmundite Missions continue to work tirelessly to provide essential nutritional, education and healthcare services and programs throughout the region. In 2016 alone, the Missions provided more than 300,000 meals, helped house or assisted to clothe more than 6,000 people, aided in the healthcare of more than 2,000 people and participated in the education of more than 10,000 children.

The citizens of Selma and surrounding Black Belt counties have come a long way since 1937, when Edmundite Missionaries began their work there. For 80 years, the Edmundite Missions has partnered with distressed, underserved communities to provide direct action and assistance to alleviate the conditions of poverty in Deep South. We are stronger, more inclusive and better resourced because of their efforts.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 80th Anniversary of the Edmundite Missions and in recognizing its many contributions. May the glory of Edmundite Missions continue to grow and prosper for years to come.

HONORING MARIAN B. TASCO

**HON. DWIGHT EVANS**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an influential and dedicated woman from Philadelphia, Marian B. Tasco, a devoted public official, and former City Council representative for the Ninth District of the City of Philadelphia.

Marian Tasco has dedicated her life and career to improving the lives of others through public service. Prior to being elected to public office, Marian Tasco was a Campaign Manager for former Congressman William H. Gray, III, and served as Director of Constituent Services for Gray's Philadelphia office. She also served as an assistant to the late C. Delores Tucker, the former Secretary of State for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and earlier in her career, served as Task Force Coordinator for the Greater Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition, under the leadership of Charles W. Bowser, Esq. Marian Tasco first went to work for the City of Philadelphia in 1959 as a clerk typist I, in the Philadelphia Police Department's Pawn Brokers Division. She was soon promoted to a clerk typist II position and was reassigned to the Registrar's Office of the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Prestigiously, Marian Tasco stands out as the first African-American elected Philadelphia

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

City Commissioner (1983–1987). She also served as the Ward Leader for the renowned 50th Ward, where she was unanimously elected by the Pennsylvania Democratic State Committee to represent Pennsylvania on the Democratic National Committee.

In 1988, Marian Tasco was elected as a Councilwoman for the Ninth District of the City of Philadelphia, a position she held until 2016. As a Councilwoman, she served as both City Council Majority Leader and Majority Whip. Her leadership was greatly valued by her council colleagues and the administrations she served alongside.

As a veteran legislator, she understood the importance of holding elected officials accountable for their productivity and was exceedingly effective in her commitment to obtain services that preserve and enhance the quality of life for her constituency. Impressively, she introduced and secured the passage of a multitude of bills and resolutions that directly relate to improving general city services, protecting and enhancing the health and welfare of women, children, and families, and making Philadelphia neighborhoods and commercial corridors safe havens for all citizens.

In addition to using her political influence to accomplish all of the above-outlined deeds, Marian Tasco chaired the City Council Public Health and Human Services Committee and the Council Committee on Finance. While Marian Tasco's board appointments are many, she is held in high esteem and recognized for her commitment as the chair of the Philadelphia Gas Commission, a lifetime appointment on the Board of Directors for the Board of City Trusts, the Philadelphia Cultural Fund and the Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority Board.

With more than 50 years of combined service, Marian Tasco has received countless awards and honors from numerous community, civic and religious organizations. Those recognitions include: an Honorary Doctorate of Law degree from Lincoln University; the Greater Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition Dwight Evans Living Legacy Award, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Pennsylvania Women's Campaign Fund; a Good Housekeeping Magazine Award for Women in Government, and a Pennsylvania Federation of Democratic Women's Elected Women of the Year Award. Most recently, she was ranked in the top 20 by Philadelphia Magazine for Most Influential people, was honored by WES Health System through the renaming of Lindley Court Apartments as the Marian B. Tasco Arms, and bestowed "Best Kingmaker" through the 2016 Best of Philly Awards for her support in electing James Kenney as mayor.

The 2nd Congressional District of Pennsylvania extends gratitude to Marian Tasco for her dedicated support and service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for Roll Call votes 607, 608, and 609 on Monday, November 6, 2017. Had I been present, I

would have voted Yea on Roll Call votes 607 and 608, and Nay on Roll Call vote 609.

#### HONORING LONNIE RICHARDSON

### HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lonnie Richardson of Mountain View, Arkansas, who recently celebrated his 100th birthday on September 12th.

Lonnie was born in 1917, in the Signal Hill community of Mountain View. In 1942, he answered the call of duty and was drafted into the U.S. Army. He served for four years during and after World War II, rising to the rank of corporal. After the war, Lonnie returned home to the Ozarks. He settled down, raised a family, and tended to the family farm.

Lonnie is truly a member of the greatest generation. We are all measured relative to people like Lonnie, who preserved global freedom, built our communities, and continue to shape America today. I hope you and Congress will join me in wishing Lonnie Richardson a happy 100th birthday.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF SUPER-INTENDENT JOHN J. DONAHUE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

### HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Superintendent John J. Donahue. After a 38-year tenure with the National Park Service, Mr. Donahue has announced he will retire on December 3, 2017.

Long before he advanced to his current position at the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area in 2003, Mr. Donahue began his federal career as a gardener at Cape Cod National Seashore. From there he advanced through the ranks, serving in a variety of roles that took him across the continental U.S. After many years, a man who had started his career as a gardener became the Superintendent of some of our country's most beautiful sites in Florida, Virginia, and Maryland.

As a dedicated leader, Mr. Donahue oversaw critical projects and built relationships with elected officials, business partners, and local Native American tribes. Due to a recent stewardship land acquisition program, there are now hundreds of acres of connected open space stretching across Pennsylvania and New Jersey. However, this is just a singular testament to his commitment and drive. During his tenure, Mr. Donahue has written legislation, regulations, policies, an numerous articles.

The impact of Mr. Donahue's work extends beyond our country's borders. Recently, he led an American and international delegation to China on behalf of the National Park Service. He also attended the World Parks Conference in Australia and served on a 1999 delegation to Haitian national parks in order to spur tourism and economic development.

Mr. Donahue's dedication to his country leaves behind a legacy which will inspire future leaders and public servants. I ask my fellow Members to join me in recognizing Superintendent John Donahue and his 38 years of service.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, November 6, 2017, I was unable to be in Washington and missed Roll Call votes No. 607, To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish assistance for adaptations of residences of veterans in rehabilitation programs under chapter 31 of such title, and for other purposes; and No. 608, To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report regarding the organizational structure of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes. Had I been present, I would have voted Yes on both bills.

#### 2017 WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER—SHEILA ALLEN

### HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sheila Allen, a proven leader in the Davis, California community who embodies the qualities of a true public servant. Sheila is currently the Executive Director of the Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance. She has been instrumental in building an organization that serves as a vital voice for older adults in Yolo County and elected officials and community leaders consider her the expert in addressing senior issues. Sheila is credited with organizing the 2010 Aging Summit that recognized the need for sustained attention of older adults. Her leadership has enhanced the lives of countless older adults in Yolo County through educational programs, collaboration with over 80 providers of older adult services and is a faithful advocate for needed programs and services at every level of government.

Working alongside County Supervisor Provenza, Sheila was instrumental in helping to advocate for a new Adult Day Health Care Center in Woodland as well as a Memory Center in Davis. Sheila also advocated for legislation to protect seniors from abuse and provide greater access to services in the community. She is currently working on a similar project in Winters, California.

Sheila's community involvement includes, Trustee, Davis Unified School District, Board Member, First Five Yolo, Board of Director, Explorit Science Center, Board of Governors, Agency on Aging, Board of Directors, American Nurses Association, Board of Director, Golden State Nursing Foundation, Advisory Committee, Yolo County Home Supportive Services, Member, Yolo County Health Council, Member, City of Davis Human Relations